

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MAY 5, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Billy E. Traylor, Vice Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, and Bill Williams. <Commissioner Jerry W. Barnes was absent>

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Planner David Richardson, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, Mayor Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, E.T.

INDIAN PASS BOAT RAMP

Chief Administrator Don Butler approached the Board concerning the Indian Pass Boat Ramp. Butler discussed a project being done by United States Fish and Wildlife Service, through Asset Group, Inc. to provide an oyster shell base on Road B of St. Vincent's Island. Butler stated that there has been opposition from the public about using the boat ramp for transportation.

Mark Cornmeyer, General Contractor on the project appeared before the Board and discussed two projects that are under way on the island. The first project is the construction of a shell road base on Road B, to better accommodate public access on St. Vincent's Island. The second project is the demolition and reconstruction of the St. Vincent's Barge ramp and boathouse. Both projects require regular usage of the Indian Pass Boat Ramp. Chairman Traylor inquired about the time frame of the projects. Cornmeyer discussed that the shell road project should be completed within two months. The shells will be transported to Indian Pass Boat Landing and transferred to a barge that will then move the shells to St. Vincent Island. The transportation of the oyster shells will include using the boat ramp Monday through Friday approximately four times per day and for approximately ten minutes each time. In addition, the ramp will be used to transport debris from the barge demolition site, and new materials for the reconstruction site on St. Vincent's Island. Cornmeyer stated that the Contractor for the St. Vincent's Barge ramp has assured them that the Indian Pass Boat Ramp will be in much better condition when the project is finished than it is currently, and any damages will be repaired. Chairman Traylor discussed public concern about congestion at the Indian Pass Boat Ramp. Cornmeyer stated that they will

be very considerate of the public. He further discussed that the contractors are willing to buy products locally. Commissioner McLemore inquired as to what the benefit is for Gulf County. Cornmeyer discussed hiring a spotter locally to be on location at the boat ramp to help direct traffic and assure public safety. McLemore discussed that this is bad timing for these projects due to fishing season. Commissioner Peters discussed buying supplies from local businesses. McLemore discussed the need to get an agreement in writing. Commissioner Williams discussed that he feels it is in the best interest of the public but there is a need to assure public safety. County Attorney Tim McFarland stated that they need to memorialize this in agreement with Asset Group, Inc. Commissioner Peters motioned to allow County Attorney McFarland to prepare an agreement with Asset Group, Inc. concerning the use of the Indian Pass Boat Ramp, and stating that any damages done will be repaired. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Commissioner McLemore opposing.

James Neally, of Indian Pass, discussed that there is a need to remodel the Indian Pass Boat Ramp due to safety issues. Chairman Traylor stated that they will have someone look into it.

Kelly McQuinn, owner and manager of the Indian Pass Campground, appeared before the Board and stated that though she is in favor of the projects, she is not secure with the procedures for two of the projects. Ms. McQuinn stated that her main concerns are with the demolition and reconstruction of the Barge Ramp and boathouse on St. Vincent's Island, and feels that it needs more discussion. Ms. McQuinn stated that her business contract does not allow her to be under construction and open for business, and since the project is being done in close proximity to her business, this is of concern should she receive damage to her property during the process. Commissioner Williams stated a need to include Ms. McQuinn in a memorandum of understanding. Chairman Traylor stated that no work will be done until Attorney McFarland has completed the agreement with Asset Group, Inc. Commissioner McLemore requested a time frame for the projects. Cornmeyer stated that all projects should be completed by October of 2008. Commissioner Williams discussed the need to advertise these projects in the local paper.

OVERSTREET WATER SYSTEM PROJECT INVOICE #5557

Butler presented an invoice from GAC Contractors, in the amount of \$281,937.15, for the Overstreet Water System Project. Commissioner McLemore motioned to pay the invoice. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

BUDGET

Chairman Traylor addressed the issue of budgets, and inquired of Public Works Director Gerald Shearer concerning the progress of his budget. Shearer discussed that, as of now, they are within budget, but fuel cost may cause them to go over. Traylor stated that no one can go over budget this year. Traylor inquired of Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran and he stated that they are still within budget. Upon inquiry from Chairman Traylor, Don stated that zero-based budgets were turned in last week, but there are still some unknown costs for several projects that they are working on. He further stated that the legislative session ended Friday, May 2, 2008, and they will be evaluating possible cuts from the

State that will affect the County's budget. Butler notified the Board that insurance and fuel costs have "gone through the roof," and reminded them that the jail is still underfunded, and does not meet the Florida Model Jail Standards. Chairman Traylor expressed the need to have a paid lobbyist in Tallahassee to represent the County, and stated that he directed Mr. Butler to budget for a lobbyist. Commissioner Williams agreed that a year-round lobbyist was needed.

Chairman Traylor recognized Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, and thanked her for attending these budget meetings. He further expressed his desire to see all Constitutional Officers at the meetings to defend their budgets.

Sheriff Joe Nugent appeared before the Board and discussed an opportunity to apply for a three year grant (requiring 25% match) to replace three employees he lost. Nugent requested that the Board apply for the grant, and they can decline it later if the match money cannot be budgeted. Sheriff Nugent stated that, currently, their expenditures are projected to be \$40,000.00 above the requested budget. Commissioner McLemore motioned to apply for the grant. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Traylor informed the Board that there is a Government Class at Wewahitchka High School that requested to have the opportunity to meet all the Commissioners and Constitutional Officers, and attend the Regular Meeting. They cannot travel due to funding; therefore, Chairman Traylor requested that the Regular Meeting be held at the Wewahitchka Courthouse, in Wewahitchka, Florida on May 13 2008, at 10:00 a.m., E.T. Commissioner McLemore motioned to do so. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then recess at 10:36 am., in order to tour the jail and EMS Building, as recommended by Butler.

The meeting did then reconvene at 11:18 am.

JAIL/EMS/BUDGET

Chairman Traylor stated that the public should visit the jail and see the improvements that have been made as well as improvements that still need to be made. Chairman Traylor stated that they will have to make the decision during budget time whether or not to keep and maintain the jail or move it to the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Peters stated that the working conditions of the EMS Building are a "shame and disgrace." He requested the EMS Director Shane McGuffin attend the next meeting, and report an estimated cost of a new facility. Chairman Traylor agreed. Commissioner Peters stated that there are three utility buildings that are being used to store medical equipment and records, and they are not secure.

Commissioner Peters stated that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the jail remodeling is complete and once the project is completed, he believes they should continue with refurbishing the kitchen.

Patricia Hardman approached the Board in representation of The Coastal Community Association, and expressed gratitude for work completed on roads in her area. Ms. Hardman also discussed the possibility of combining an EMS Building with a new Fire Department that will be built at the Cape, in order to save expenses for both departments. Commissioner Peters stated that if there was a location with enough land to build on, that might be feasible.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:26 a.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK